

Transcript of digitally recorded interview with Thomas Fabian
Isabel Fabian Interview: September 16, 2009
Place: Fabian home, 5412 Hamilton Ave., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
Interview and transcription: Mark Junge

Mark: OK, today, again, is the sixteenth of September, 2009. My name is Mark Junge and I'm in the home of Isabel and Tom Fabian on 5412 --[interruption: "Thank you for that water, Tom"] ... 5412 Hamilton Dr.... Hamilton Street or Hamilton ...?

Isabel: Avenue.

Mark: Hamilton Avenue. Sorry. And we're gonna talk just a little bit with Isabel and get some things down for the record about her life and her memories. And then we're, I think we're going to take a coupla pictures some time down the road, right? OK. Alright, Isabel, give me your full name.

Isabel: Isabel Emma Fabian.

Mark: Emma?

Isabel: Um-hmm.

Mark: OK ... but your, and your maiden name.

Isabel: Rizzi, R-I-Z-Z-I.

Mark: OK. And when were you born?

Isabel: February 17, 1925.

Mark: So you are three years, almost three years younger than Tom.

Isabel: Yeah. Hm-hmm. Yes.

Mark: Where were you born?

Isabel: Superior, Wyoming.

Mark: Oh, you were born in Superior? Tom was born in Kemmerer.

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: Were you born at home or in a hospital?

Isabel: At home.

Mark: Was that typical?

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Isabel: I have one brother and two sisters. I had one brother and two sisters. They've all passed away.

Mark: They've all passed away.

Isabel: Yes

Mark: Who were your parents?

Isabel: My parents were Nellie and Joe ... Joseph Rizzi.

Mark: And they, were they, did they come from Cumberland?

Isabel: No. My mother was born in Hazelton, Pennsylvania and my dad came from Italy ... Austria, really, through Ellis Island..

Mark: Well, is Rizzi ... uh, Rizzi's Italian, right?

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: But he came from Austria.

Isabel: Well, at one time it was Austria and then Italy took it. It's right at the base of the ...

Mark: ... of the Alps?

Isabel: At the Alps, yeah.

Mark: So it's the Tyrolean part.

Isabel: Yes, that's right.

Mark: Oh, he was Tyrolean?

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: OK. And he met your mother where?

Isabel: He met mother in [pause] ... where's that place? Cambria?

Mark: Out by Newcastle?

Isabel: Yes, uh-huh.

Mark: At the coal camps?

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: Oh, I'll be darned.

Isabel: Uh-huh.

Mark: So ...

Isabel: My mother was married before and she lost her husband. He died of pneumonia. My brother ... my oldest sister, Violet, and my brother, Val, are my half-brother and sister. And he me her ... he was workin' in the mine up there, I guess, and she was there as a widow. And they were married there.

Mark: OK. So she ... when she married him she had two stepchildren.

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: And what were their names?

Isabel: Violet and Valentine.

Mark: OK, and then the ... the boy?

Isabel: Valentine.

Mark: Oh, Valentine was his ...

Isabel: ... was the boy, yeah, was my brother's name.

Mark: OK. And your sister's name was ...

Isabel: Violet.

Mark: And then there was another one that you two had.

Isabel: Mary. She's my ... from my dad. We had the two sisters ... her second marriage.

Mark: Are all your kids alive? All those kids alive, I mean? Those three ... no, no, you're the last one.

Isabel: No, I'm the last. Yeah.

Mark: Excuse me. I'm sorry. I got a little mixed up there. OK. So why did you move from Cambria to Superior?

Isabel: I guess the mine closed up there, too, I understand. And my dad got a job in Superior.

Mark: How old were you when you were up in Cambria, do you remember?

Isabel: Oh, I wasn't born in Cambria. That was before I was born. They were married there..

Mark: Ohh ... OK. OK.

Isabel: And then they moved to Superior and I was born in Superior.

Mark: What do you remember about growing up in Superior?

Isabel: Oh, I don't remember much until I started in school. We were in Superior, I think I was eighteen months old and they decided to move back to Hazelton, Pennsylvania. And my mother and dad and my sisters and brother and we got in ... it must have been a Dodge because my dad didn't own anything but a Dodge. [both laugh] We came to through Cheyenne and camped in Cheyenne, they said. And I was ill all the way. And then they went to Pennsylvania and my dad worked there for about a year or year and a half, I don't know, exactly. And the mines were only about three feet tall, and they had gas in 'em. I guess they were terrible. And he worked there and ... but they didn't hire you. You had to go every morning to this certain place and they'd pick you if they wanted you to work that day. And after a while, I guess they got fed up with it and moved back to Superior. And on the way home ... my dad drove back home in the car. And my mother and us kids came back on the train. And my sister, Mary, my sister three years older than I am, she had whooping cough on the train. And my mother said she had to rush to the bathroom every time she'd start coughing so they wouldn't put us off the train before we got home.

Mark: Oh, my God.

Isabel: And she said it was a terrible trip.

Mark: Oh, yeah.

Isabel: And I guess we finally made it home. And then, uh, we moved back to Superior in a different house on a different hill. We had "A" ... "C" Hill, "B" Hill, "B" [pauses]... second "B" - - different hills -- and we moved to "C" Hill. And that's where I spent the rest of my days.

Mark: Well, when ... uh, did you know Tom from "A" Hill or when you first were in ...

Isabel: No, "B" Hill, no the second ... uh, "C" Hill, the second time we moved ...

Mark: Oh, OK.

Isabel: ...back.

Mark: So growing up with him you were ... were you just playmates or were you ...

Isabel: No, he was couple years ahead of me. I was more .. I tagged along mostly with my sisters and his older sister.

Mark: Oh, OK.

Isabel: And we had three or four girls that went to school together. And some were older and some were younger. I think I was about the youngest one but I went along with 'em.

Mark: Yeah. What'd you think of his sisters?

Isabel: They were nice. We had a good time together.

Mark: Did you?

Isabel: His sister Dorothy. Dorothy, Mary, myself and a girl named Kathryn Nickcic [sp?] and Josephine [sounds like "Neederer-yalf-inner"]

Mark: What?

Isabel: "Nieder-yalf-inner?" [laughs]

Mark: That's a tough one.

Isabel: And Ida Menghini. We all went to school together and we were all different ages.

Mark: Well, Leno Menghini became head of the Highway Department.

Isabel: Leno Menghini graduated with me. I went to the prom with him. [laughs]

Mark: Oh, you did? [laughs]

Isabel: My senior year, yeah.

Mark: What did you girls do when you were young? What did you do for fun?

Isabel: We played hopscotch and, uh ...

Mark: You mean there were sidewalks in Superior?

Isabel: No. Well, downtown there were but not where we were. We played, just different games. Like, in the wintertime we'd go out in the snow and we'd make a circle and it was called ...

Mark: "Wild Goose"?

Isabel: "Fox and ...

Mark: "Fox and Geese"..

Isabel: "Fox and Geese." And we did that. And we'd play jacks. And we'd go on picnics. We'd fix our little lunch and go up in the hills on rocks and pick wildflowers, make mud pies, and make our furniture out of mud. Well, we used to find this clay in the hills and we'd make furniture out of clay. That was our ... we didn't buy any, we make our own, paint it. And dolls and paper dolls.

Mark: You mean you made, like, ceramic furniture almost?

Isabel: Well, we made them of clay, and then we'd draw the drawers on and put flowers on to decorate 'em, wildflowers that we picked out in the country. And we'd have ... lots of fun. Like I say, we'd have little picnics and go up in the hills and maybe fry some potatoes or something.

Mark: What was it like growin' up in that household? With your mom and dad?

Isabel: Well, now, my sister was quite a bit older. She was gone when I was pretty young. She went into nurse's training and became a nurse in Rock Springs. In fact, she ended up as night supervisor at the hospital there. And my brother left when he was pretty young. Well, he worked in the mine and stayed at home for awhile. And my sister and I were together most. That's what I remember mostly, just the two of us.

Mark: What sort of people were your parents?

Isabel: They were good people, hardworking ... no nonsense.

Mark: Tell me ... yeah, describe your dad for me.

Isabel: My dad was a hard worker. He never said much and never complained at all about anything. And I can remember him going to work in the wintertime. He hadda walk about two or three miles over the hill in those snowstorms. When I think about it ... it's sad.

Mark: Yeah. What was his full name?

Isabel: Joseph Rizzi. I don't think he had a middle name.

Mark: OK. Did you name your son after him?

Isabel: Him and the priest that married us. He was John Joseph so I said, "Well, we'll name him Joseph John ... out of my dad and his ...

Mark: Did your dad ever tell you about his folks? Your grandparents? Or did you know them?

Isabel: Not much. They were ... his mother was in Europe and the rest of the fam ... Well, he went to work. He came over when he was seventeen. And then he worked a while and they'd send money so the rest of the family ... his ... he brought two brothers over ...

Mark: Um-hm.

Isabel: ...and my uncles. They were in Superior, too, and worked in the mine.

Mark: OK.

Isabel: And then he had a sister that came to Superior and she married an Angeli. She lived there, too. And I had an aunt in Detroit, Michigan. She came to visit us once with her family, I remember that. And I remember my mother's mother ...

Mark: Now what was your mother's full name.

Isabel: Just Nellie ... her maiden name was Tait, T-A-I-T.

Mark: So that was not German or ...

Isabel: No, that wasn't. What I understand is, I had an uncle that married my sister ... my mother's oldest sister that came to visit us once. And he said he did a family, uh, check in Italy and my ... I guess it would be my grandfather was a Welshman or something. Came from Wales and went down. I don't know how that happened.

Mark: Well, Welsh were miners, too.

Isabel: Yeah, but I don't know how he and my grandmother got together in Italy, or that. I don't know how that happened.

Mark: Um-hmm.

Isabel: And they moved to Hazelton and they lived there. And she was one of nine children, too, and lost her dad when he was ... when she was about twelve years old.

Mark: Your mother did.

Isabel: My mother did, yeah. And she said she had to quit school and go to work in a silk factory. And they'd get up at three o'clock in the morning and work twelve hours a day. They didn't have any child laws in those days..

Mark: A silk factory?

Isabel: She'd work twelve hours a day, five days a week.

Mark: In Hazelton?

Isabel: In Hazelton.

Mark: Wow. So then you didn't ... you were ... you didn't know your grandparents at all, then, really.

Isabel: No, Huh-uh.

Mark: They were ...

Isabel: I met my mother's mother once. She came to visit us. She was a neat lady ... what I remember of her.

Mark: Oh, I thought your mother was only twelve when she passed away.

Isabel: No. Let's see. My mother was twelve when my grandfather passed away.

Mark: OK, I got it.

Isabel: And my grandmother came to visit once when I was in Superior. I think I was in the ninth grade. And that's the only time I met her.

Mark: Did she speak English?

Isabel: Oh, yeah.

Mark: OK. But on her dad's side they would have spoken Tyrolean, I suppose, some ...

Isabel: I suppose so. I don't know. I suppose so.

Mark: Now, you didn't grow up with any language besides English, did you?

Isabel: Uh, no, we spoke Italian. My mother spoke Italian once in a while but not ... only when we had company. She had her Italian friends, and that's how I learned it. But I've lost it. You know, I used to listen to it and I picked it up. But when you're away from it for fifty, sixty years you lose it.

Mark: Oh, yeah. Do you think you could still remember ...

Isabel: I think I could probably understand it, and I have difficulty speaking it anymore.

Mark: [laughs]

Isabel: I have to think.

Mark: You know, my grandparents broke into German with my dad when I was out at my grandparents' farm in Southern Illinois. And I remember them just breaking into this German language and I just ... I musta had the most puzzled look on my face because I had no idea what they were talkin' about. But you did. You knew some of these Italian words.

Isabel: Yes, Uh-huh. Yeah, I used to go visit with my mother when we were married and the kids were in school I'd take her visiting to see her friends and, uh ... I'd listen in.

Mark: Where did you go to school?

Isabel: In Superior.

Mark: All of your grades?

Isabel: All the time, uh-huh.

Mark: From first grade on up?

Isabel: Yes, uh-huh.

Mark: They didn't have Kindergarten in those days did they?

Isabel: No, no I was five years old when I started school. I just turned seventeen when I graduated. I could hardly find a job.

Mark: Oh, that's ... you were young, then?

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: You were young ... you went to school younger than some of those other kids.

Isabel: Uh-huh, yes.

Mark: And you couldn't find a job?

Isabel: Well, the first job I had when I got out was for Walter Muir [sp?]. He was running for United States senator. And I don't know how I got it. [laughs] But I typed thousands and

thousands of letters because they didn't have copy machines, and sent 'em all over the state. He was a lawyer in Rock Springs.

Mark: How do you spell his name? M-U

Isabel: M-U-I-R.

Mark: OK.

Isabel: And I can remember stacks of envelopes, boxes of envelopes. And I filled 'em all. I did a good job.

Mark: Wow.

Isabel: I learned to type real fast on an old LC. Smith [laughs]

Mark: [laughs] How many words a minute did you do?

Isabel: I did, probably, seventy, eighty words a minute.

Mark: Oh, my gosh. Without mistakes?

Isabel: Well, I was gettin' ... yeah, not too many. In order to read, you know, proofread 'em I'd hold 'em up to a window and put the one on top of the other and you could tell if there was a letter out of ...

Mark: Omigosh, and ...

Isabel: Instead of reading each one.

Mark: And if there was a letter out, then what?

Isabel: Well, then I had to do it over..

Mark: Oh, noooo. Oh, my ... you didn't have any "white-out" or any of this stuff that you could correct with?

Isabel: No.

Mark: No "Selectric" [type of electric typewriter] with a correcting ribbon?

Isabel: No-o-o-o. I wish.

Mark: And then ...

Isabel: I wish I'd a had a computer in those days.

Mark: Oh, man, and these were manual typewriters?

Isabel: Yes. And you hadda really press on those old L.C. Smith. They went down one way ...

Mark: Oh ... didn't you ever get "carpel tunnel syndrome"?

Isabel: Not at that time, no.

Mark: They didn't hear of such a thing I supposed.

Isabel: No.

Mark: Did you like that job?

Isabel: Yes, I loved it.

Mark: Oh, that was right outta high school?

Isabel: Right outta high school. They rented a room in the ... one of the old hotels there right on Main Street. I had ... I think I was up two or three stories and ...

Mark: This was in ...

Isabel: In Rock Springs

Mark: In Rock Springs.

Isabel: Um-hmm.

Mark: OK.

Isabel: And I lived with my sister at that time ... 'cause there weren't any jobs in Superior.

Mark: Well, how many years did you work at that job?

Isabel: I just worked that one three months 'cause he didn't win. [laughs]

Mark: [laughs] OK.

Isabel: I probably would've ended up in Washington. They were gonna take me to Washington if he woulda won.

Mark: That woulda changed ...

Isabel: My life would have been completely different.

Mark: That's right. What did you do after that?

Isabel: After that I went to work in Woolworth's dime store [laughs]. It was down. I went a grade down. And for twelve dollars a week, six days a week. And I put in a lotta overtime there and you didn't get paid overtime. You just ...

Mark: Right.

Isabel: ... worked. And then I ... there was a job opening at a cleaning outfit for three dollars more a week ...

Mark: [laughs]

Isabel: ... so I took it. I was ... I shoulda never done that.

Mark: Why?

Isabel: Oh, goin' through all those dirty clothes, checkin' 'em in ... and I worked a lotta hours there, too ...

Mark: Now, did you ...

Isabel: ... for nothing ...

Mark: OK, now ...

Isabel: ... just the fifteen dollars a week, six days a week.

Mark: How long did you stay at that?

Isabel: I stayed with that one about ... oh, let's see. I started ...probably about five, six months.

Mark: Yeah.

Isabel: And my sister was a good friend of the gal that ran the Chamber of Commerce in Rock Springs? 'Cause when she got outta high school she went to ... remember the WPA?

Mark: Oh, sure.

Isabel: She had five ... she got five dollars a month and worked for the Chamber of Commerce. And then she got a good job at the telephone company after that.

Mark: You mean the WPA paid her salary?

Isabel: Yeah, I guess so.

Mark: Workin' for the Chamber?

Isabel: Uh-huh.

Mark: Oh, I'll be darned.

Isabel: Five dollars a month that was. Not a week.

Mark: No.

Isabel: Did I say a week? It was a month.

Mark: Yeah, but they sent some money home. Didn't they send some money home to the...

Isabel: Not to her ... maybe it was somethin' different but it was a government ... one of those ...

Mark: Yeah.

Isabel: ... same type of job.

Mark: Right, right.

Isabel: And she got a job with the telephone company which she worked the rest of her time. And she knew this gal at the Chamber of Commerce and she told me about a man working for the Soil Conservation Service. The federal government was looking for someone. And I went and interviewed with them and got a job with the federal government there, Soil Conservation Service. And I worked for the Home ... Farm Loan Administration. And then there was an engineer there, too.

Mark: Were you a secretary?

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: OK. So these ... this outfit was the one that made loans to farmers and ranchers?

Isabel: We worked for the people up at Farson and Eden.

Mark: OK.

Isabel: They built those irrigation ditches ...

Mark: Yes.

Isabel: ... whatever, up there. And then, uh, that was ... the engineer did that. And the Farm Loan Administration, they gave loans to the farmers and that was a different bo ... one of the other guys that worked in the office. And I had to take care of all their loans .. and their payments ... do their checkbooks ... and I was seventeen [laughs] ...seventeen years old.

Mark: Well, that's where you learned your, your ...

Isabel: I learned a LOT ...

Mark: Yeah.

Isabel: ...in that office.

Mark: Yeah..

Isabel: And I liked that job. I worked there 'till I I got married.

Mark: Now, were you at the time going with Tom?

Isabel: Well, he was in the service. I was corresponding with him.

Mark: OK. Now, tell me the first time when you got interested in Tom.

Isabel: Well, I think during our writing together, writin' back and forth.

Mark: Oh, you mean you were just ... well, why would you even write if you didn't ...

Isabel: Well, yeah.

Mark: Yeah, so ... well, what d'ya mean "Yeah." [laughs] Did you? ... How did you guys meet? ... I mean, in your dating life, let's put it that way. 'Cause you knew each other as kids.

Isabel: Yeah. Well, I guess when he first came home that ... his first leave ...is when we dated. And then from there on..

Mark: How did you get a date with him?

Isabel: He asked me out, I guess.

Mark: Oh, you guess?

Isabel: [laughs] I don't remember.

Mark: [laughs] This is one of those unforgettable dates? OK. So how did he strike you? I mean, what was your impression ... at that time?

Isabel: I liked him a lot.

Mark: Why?

Isabel: Oh, I don't know, I guess we knew each other ... you know, I knew the family and ...

Mark: ...and he was a handsome guy.

Isabel: And he was a handsome guy, yeah.

Mark: Yeah. Well, some people, you know ... one lady told me once, she says, "You know I did the usual thing ..." Now this was ... she's much younger than you, but she said, "I did the usual thing. I met a guy. He was kinda like my dad. I figured, well, the right thing to do is to get married. I got married, I got divorced. [laughs at his own joke]

Isabel: No ... just ... I guess we just got along together and liked the same things. I don't know.

Mark: Um-hmm. He wasn't like your dad.

Isabel: No, huh-uh. No.

Mark: Not at all?

Isabel: No, I don't think so.

Mark: Yeah, OK. So now after you ... you said you quit this job, did you? That the Chamber of Commerce ...?

Isabel: Oh, the federal?

Mark: 'Scuse me, the federal job, the WPA.

Isabel: Well, when he came home, after I got pregnant I quit. I worked about five months and then I thought I better quit.

Mark: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, OK. That was the usual thing to do.

Isabel: Yeah. They didn't let you work. In other words, I don't think they liked it if you worked.

Mark: Really?

Isabel: I mean after, you know, if you were havin' a baby in those days you stayed home.

Mark: Yeah. Then he was off at the service. What did you do during that time with ...

Isabel: I stayed with my sister.

Mark: In Rock Springs?

Isabel: In Rock Springs, yeah.

Mark: And raised Brent.

Isabel: After he was born, yeah. I stayed with my sister until I had him, four months.

Mark: And then afterwards?

Isabel: And then I was there for two or three weeks until he came home and found a place in Superior.

Mark: Oh, OK.

Isabel: And we moved to Superior.

Mark: I'm curious. You had two children.

Isabel: Um-hmm.

Mark: But your folks, I mean his folks, had a lot more. They had nine kids.

Isabel: Um-hmm.

Mark: And in your family there was three, right?

Isabel: Four.

Mark: Er, excuse me, four. Did you guys want a bigger family? Did you plan on a bigger family?

Isabel: Uh, no, it just happened that way.

Mark: Uh-huh. You were happy with two.

Isabel: Yeah. Oh, I probably woulda liked a little girl but ...

Mark: Uh-huh, yeah.

Isabel: It didn't happen so ...

Mark: Do you have grandkids?

Isabel: Oh, yes. I've got five grandkids and five, six great-grandkids.

Mark: How many granddaughters?

Isabel: Three granddaughters.

Mark: And you have grandkids?

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: How many boys and girls?

Isabel: Let's see, two boys ... three boys, and Samantha and Kim [pause] ...two granddaughters, I guess.

Mark: Great-granddaughters?

Isabel: Great-granddaughters, yeah.

Mark: OK. One of the things we forgot to talk about is ... when I went through this album of pictures that Tom and you collected of his service days there was a sheet in that album that was written, that had some writing on it from somebody in ... at Girls' State. Can you tell me about that experience?

Isabel: Girls' State?

Mark: Yes. 'Cause, wasn't it the first, the very first one?

Isabel: Yes, uh-huh. It was the first one. Gosh, I should, I have a book on that. Why don't I go get it?

Mark: No, just tell me about it. We'll go get it later if that's OK with you. But would that help you ... or would that remind you of some things?

Isabel: I was tryin' to think where we went. I think we went to Douglas or some place up there at a camp. "Camp

Mark: Careyhurst, wasn't it?

Isabel: I can't remember the name.

Mark: I thought it was Careyhurst.

Isabel: Maybe it was.

Mark: Yeah. Do you remember much about that experience?

Isabel: Well, yeah. I met a lotta nice girls. And we, actually, you set up like a government, like the state government. We chose a governor, and legislators and things like that. And learned about the state government and how government worked. And then we came to Cheyenne for one day and took over ... or, went to our specific offices, you know.

Mark: Who organized Girls' State?

Isabel: I was tryin' to think of that last night.

Mark: Was it Leona Bartling?

Isabel: In Superior it was ... boy, I can't remember her name. I think she was from Farson.

Mark: Well, were you ... they had positions, elected positions. Did you hold a position?

Isabel: No, I didn't. I wasn't elected to the main ... when I came here they made me head of the Highway Department [laughs].

Mark: Why the head of the Highway Department?

Isabel: I have a picture of it. [both laugh] With me in the head of the Highway Department. Was it the Highway Department or the Highway Patrol? I can't remember. I got the picture.

Mark: Uh-huh. I think it ...

Isabel: And we stayed here overnight with a family called Bennetts, their name was. And I've lost contact with them. But their daughter was named Governor. She was a nice person.

Mark: She was from Cheyenne?

Isabel: She was from Cheyenne, yeah.

Mark: Do you think that was a valuable experience?

Isabel: Yeah, I think so. For me it was 'cause it's the first time I'd ever left home alone. You know?

Mark: Uh-huh. But, practically speaking? For politics?

Isabel: Yes, I think so. It taught the girls a lot about politics. I think it's probably more sophisticated now than the first time, you know, what they go through.

Mark: Right. Did you make some pretty good friends there?

Isabel: Yes, uh-huh.

Mark: Do you still correspond?

Isabel: One in ... well, I don't correspond. One of the gals that came from Rock Springs. Her name was Helen Poulos. I still talk to her when we go home.

Mark: Wow. They're good memories, huh?

Isabel: Um-hmm.

Mark: Now, you worked as an election judge, too. Was that later on?

Isabel: Yeah. Here.

Mark: Oh, here in Cheyenne.

Isabel: Yeah. You mean at ... where they vote?

Mark: Right.

Isabel: Right. For a couple years.

Mark: Why did you do that?

Isabel: Well, my neighbor, Mulvaney, and another friend of mine ... I don't know, they ... and Marian Kline, they just asked me to and I did it. It was interesting, too. I liked that, too.

Mark: Were you ever ... after Girls State do you think you could've been involved in politics, Isabel, or not?

Isabel: No. No, I'm not that type of person. I'm not aggressive ... I don't think, anyway.

Mark: You don't strike me as being aggressive.

Isabel: No.

Mark: But you do strike me as a person who has her own mind.

Isabel: Oh, yeah. I have my own mind and believe in certain things and nobody can change them. [both laugh] But as far as being aggressive or goin' out, no, I'm more of a follower and helper than a leader, I'd say.

Mark: OK. Well, when Tom was in the service was that a particularly tough time for you?

Isabel: I don't think I was old enough to really rea ... er, didn't really realize what could happen, you know? You don't think of that ... how your life could change or what could happen.

Mark: Hmm. Yeah.

Isabel: When we got married I didn't realize that he could've been killed, I could've been left with a son to raise, you know, it just didn't enter my mind.

Mark: Were you a person who, when you were growing up, wanted to have a career?

Isabel: [sighs] I never thought of it that way, no. No, I didn't have anything specific in mind that I wanted to do. Now my oldest sister did. She had a ... she was a strong person. It seemed like she could take care of anything that came up.

Mark: But you ... would you expect to be ... did you expect to be a housewife?

Isabel: Oh, yeah, probably, yeah. I think most girls in that ...when I grew up, they ended up married. I don't think any of 'em really planned to be a career person.

Mark: Things are a lot different.

Isabel: Yeah, they're different now. You go to school thinking of that, I think, now.

Mark: Do you feel like you missed out on something by not going to school?

Isabel: No, Huh-uh. I didn't even ... I knew that my parents couldn't send me to college. And I did have good grades. I was ... graduated with a one-point something. I wasn't too far back in line for a scholarship but ...

Mark: Now, wait a minute. A one-point something would be barely over a "D."

Isabel: No, no.

Mark: You're talkin' ...

Isabel: It was the opposite.

Mark: It was the opposite?

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: In those days a one was ...

Isabel: One was the high.

Mark: ...was the high.

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: And you were one-plus something.

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: So you were an A-plus student.

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: What were your best subjects?

Isabel: Oh, I liked ... we had a good algebra teacher. She was good. I liked history. I liked 'em all. I really ...

Mark: You liked history?

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: What do you think about this interview ... these interviews? Do you think these are gonna be important?

Isabel: Probably to the family, they might be.

Mark: You think?

Isabel: Um-hmm. I just didn't think my life was that important [laughs] or I did that much, or did anything ... you know, important.

Mark: Well, look at it this way. You raised two, fine kids.

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: You know? That's important, isn't it?

Isabel: Yes. And they were always important ... first, with me. Family was always first with me. The rest was after, came after.

Mark: Um-hmm. What were your other interests besides family?

Isabel: Oh, I had bowling. And as a young person goin' to school I played softball on the softball team. And I played basketball in school.

Mark: That ... you know, kids .. girls in ... when you were growing up girls didn't usually participate in sports, did they?

Isabel: No. No. But we had ... during the summer we had a softball that ... it was a bunch of us kids getting' together. And we played different teams like the men did. And that's about it. And then we ... just having friends. We'd get together in the evening and talk. And just play games and that.

Mark: Um-hmm. What'd you think about making the change from Superior to Cheyenne?

Isabel: Well, I [chuckles] we didn't have much choice. I like Cheyenne. I really like Cheyenne.

Mark: Why?

Isabel: Oh, it's not too big, and you can get around easy, and the people are nice. And I just think it's a great place to live.

Mark: I do, too. I do, too. Do you have a lot of friends here?

Isabel: Yeah, quite a few.

Mark: Do you get together?

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: What do you do?

Isabel: Not so much anymore but we used to have a club that we'd get together and talk. We had a sewing club, though no one ever brought their sewing.

Mark: [laughs] What?

Isabel: We just talked and had a nice lunch.

Mark: In each other's houses?

Isabel: In each other's houses, yes.

Mark: OK. Do you guys have get-togethers with your family, your sons and ...

Isabel: Oh, yeah. Every holiday we do. Well, I cook a lot. And we have 'em on Sundays for dinner, and at night and whenever I can ... whenever I felt like it.

Mark: Are you a pretty good cook?

Isabel: I think so. [laughs] At least they all come around when I say come to dinner. They never say no. [both laugh]

Mark: Yeah, like they say, "You can call me anything you want but don't call me late for supper." Well, you mentioned during the first day that Tom and I were talkin', Isabel, you mentioned that you learned a lot from his mother in cooking? Is that right?

Isabel: Well, he liked certain things and I tried to imitate her recipes ... and uh, yeah, I learned that way. But my mother was a good cook, too. I learned a lot from her.

Mark: Oh, was she?

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: What did she cook that was particularly ...

Isabel: She cooked everything. We had good soup. We always had to have soup, salad, potatoes, another dinner starch like macaroni or somethin', and a vegetable. All the time, every day. My dad always ate his soup last. He said he was filling in the holes.

Mark: [laughs] That's pretty good ... filling in the holes. Did she have desserts?

Isabel: She wasn't a great baker but she baked cakes, and nut cakes and things like that. And she made the ravioli, and we had the turkey and all that stuff, and hams and ...

Mark: Did she cook those ethnic foods?

Isabel: Yes. Um-hmm. And I ... have you ever heard of [sounds like "Nyul-kee"] dumplings?

Mark: What do they call 'em?

Isabel: We call 'em "Nyul-kee"

Mark: "Nyul-kee"?

Isabel: Yeah. You can get 'em in a grocery store nowadays, but they're not as good as mine. [laughs]

Mark: [laughs] And your mother ...you learned it from your mother.

Isabel: Yeah, I learned a lot from her and my sister. Now my sister cooked a little different than my mother. She added to the recipes of my mother. I learned from her, too.

Mark: Did you go by recipes or did you go by ...

Isabel: No. Just cook. Make up my own. I put the things in I like. And they usually turn out pretty well.

Mark: Did your mother bake bread?

Isabel: Yes. Not like Tom's mother, though, every day. No, we bought most of it. She didn't bake that much.

Mark: Did she have a coal stove?

Isabel: Um-hmm. Yes.

Mark: And you had ... you said you didn't have indoor plumbing.

Isabel: No, not when I grew up, no. Huh-uh. No, we hadda run like heck in wintertime so we wouldn't freeze.

Mark: Did you use the old Sears and Roebuck catalogs?

Isabel: Yes. And Montgomery Wards. Yes.

Mark: Omigosh.

Isabel: [laughs]

Mark: Do you have some pretty good memories of those days?

Isabel: Yes. Yeah, they were good. I'm glad we grew up when we did. I think times were a lot simpler and ... better. We didn't have all the worries that the kids have now..

Mark: Right. Right. But you had the Depression, too.

Isabel: You know, I never felt the Depression. I don't remember it at all. We always had enough food on the table. I don't know how they managed but we always had food. And my mother and dad were ... my mother must've been a good ... I musta got my management from her 'cause she, she was a good manager. And I always felt like I could go home for anything. In fact, I have gotten home to borrow money and everything, you know? And I knew they would always help.

Mark: Um-hmm. Now your dad was a miner.

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: How did he die?

Isabel: He had, uh, pancreatic ... I think he had pancreatic cancer. They said it really wasn't cancer but it was a growth there. And he suffered quite a bit.

Mark: But pancreatic cancer doesn't last long. You don't last long.

Isabel: No, he didn't. He ... 'bout few months.

Mark: How did that situate your mother? Didn't she have a tough time then?

Isabel: She wasn't happy after he died. Never. She was always ready to go, she said.

Mark: Really?

Isabel: She died two years after he did.

Mark: Oh ... how old were you?

Isabel: I was at Cheyenne here married. I think I was probably in my fifties.

Mark: Um-hmm. Did you stay in touch with your mother though?

Isabel: Oh, yes, we went home ...that was always home to me. We went home two, three times a year all the time.

Mark: To Superior.

Isabel: To Superior. It was always ... seemed to be our job to go home. They couldn't make it this way, so ... and she came to stay with us a couple times, she and my dad. And she came to stay with me after he died, once. When Brent was home from the service.

Mark: Did she ever express to you that she was happy with your style of life or your family? Was she a demonstrative person?

Isabel: No, huh-uh. She never told us ...she never criticized us in any way, what we did.

Mark: But you sort of understood ... how she felt about things.

Isabel: Well, as long as we did well she was happy. And my dad, too. They always worried about the family, too. They took care of us really well, all of us.

Mark: Right, what you transferred to your family.

Isabel: I hope so, yeah.

Mark: Yeah, I would ... I think so ... it sounds like it. But you were the... we talked about this with Tom: you were the money manager.

Isabel: Yeah. Well, I had to be. I was the only one here ... to take care of everything. And the kids were too small and, uh, he'd send ... everything came home, all of his checks and everything, so ...

Mark: Um-hmm. And were you able to live on that?

Isabel: Oh, yeah. I was workin', too. I worked for the Federal Highway De.... uh ...

Mark: Oh, really? The ... yeah.

Isabel: The federal government, Federal Highway Administration.

Mark: Right.

Isabel: I worked for the VA [Veterans Administration] first. I worked for the VA about a year and a half. And I quit because I thought I could stay home. We moved out on Bevans. We built a house out there and lived there, and I thought, "Well, maybe I can stay home now with the kids." But I worked for the VA a year and a half and quit. Thought I could stay home. And we kinda needed the money so I went to work for the Federal Highway Department.

Mark: Which has an office down there on ...

Isabel: We were in the old Masonic Building down there to begin with and then we moved to the Federal Building.

Mark: Oh, really?

Isabel: Hm-hmm.

Mark: The O'Mahoney Building?

Isabel: The Federal Building that's now ... the old one, across from the bank there.

Mark: Where the Post Office is?

Isabel: No, it's ... oh, I worked there, yeah. Then we moved to the Post Office. We worked in three different places.

Mark: OK, was that your last job ... for the Federal H-W-A.

Isabel: Yeah. I worked there for what? ... about six years? And then I quit when Brent went over... uh, he was on the road so I quit. And then Brent went overseas to Vietnam and they gave me a temporary job for that year, which was a good thing. Kept my mind off of it.

Mark: Right. Right.

Isabel: And that was the last I worked.

Mark: When did you retire?

Isabel: [laughs] Oh, Lord, I don't remember.

Mark: Did you get a pension? I mean, were you eligible for a pension?

Isabel: No, I ... I could have. I withdrew it. I shouldn't have. I should have ... because the three years I worked in Rock Springs and the time I had there, I could have had my ten years in. But I withdrew it. No, I don't get any pension from 'em.

Mark: Well, you get Social Security.

Isabel: Social Security, yeah.

Mark: Yeah. I think ... it sounds to me like you benefitted by FDR's [Franklin Delano Roosevelt] programs, the WPA [Works Progress Administration].

Isabel: Well, I never worked for 'em. My sister did, once.

Mark: But the family did.

Isabel: Well, she didn't work there that long. Yeah, I guess she did for a few months.

Mark: What did you think of Roosevelt?

Isabel: Well, at that time I'd never did vote yet. So I didn't give it much thought. [laughs] But I know my parents were Republicans, but they voted for him all three times so they musta liked him.

Mark: My dad voted for Roosevelt and I said "Well ..." And he's been, he was a lifelong Republican except for that one time he voted for Roosevelt.

Isabel: So was my parents, I think.

Mark: And I said, "Well, why did you vote for Roosevelt?" And he said, "Because he brought back beer." [both laugh]

Thomas: [in background] I was a good Democrat back in those days. I loved Roosevelt. Now, I don't know.

Mark: [laughs] Your opinion, you've changed your opinion a little bit over the years.

Thomas: Oh, yeah, I did, that's for sure.

Mark: OK. Well, listen, there's so much more we could be talking about here but I'm just wondering if there's anything that you wanted to mention about your family, or your boys, particularly.

Isabel: No, I just hope I did a good job with them. And they mean everything to me.

Mark: Did you have a favorite?

Isabel: No.

Mark: No parent is gonna admit that. No parent.

Isabel: No, we treated 'em .. tried to treat 'em equally.

Mark: Didja?

Isabel: I hope so. I tried to. I think Brent's been around us more than Joe, 'cause he's here. Joe's always been away more.

Mark: Right.

Isabel: But as far as favoritism, I hope I never show that.

Mark: We have two boys, as well. And we tried very hard to treat them equally. My wife and I are pretty proud of the fact that we did. And yet there's still competition between those two boys.

Isabel: Oh, there is there. I think that Brent and Joe are competitive, don't you think?
[addressing Thomas] They tease each other, anyway.

Thomas: I think they're more competitive with me than they are with each other. [Isabel laughs]

Mark: Really? Yeah. Let's see, how old are they now? Brent is what?

Isabel: Joe is gonna .. or was sixty-two yesterday or the day before and Brent is 63.

Mark: When was his birthday?

Isabel: March the eighteenth.

Mark: You remember those. Do you remember your grandkids' birthdays?

Isabel: More or less, yeah. [laughs] I have to think about 'em for awhile. Yeah. One of our great-grandkids just had a birthday Saturday and the other one's gonna have it October the 2nd or 3rd. I get it around, pretty close to the date. I had 'em written down. I have to look 'em up

Mark: Yeah, I was gonna say, you have 'em written down. So I asked Tom what was the best thing in his life. What was the best thing in your life?

Isabel: [draws a deep breath] Oh, I've had a lotta good things in my life, I think. I think when we got married it was pretty good. It set up our life pretty well. And being together all these years has been good.

Mark: What's your best memory?

Isabel: My best memory. ... I think when he came home from the service. And when Brent came home, both. They were big moments.

Mark: Do you have any major disappointments?

Isabel: I don't think so.

Mark: No regrets?

Isabel: No.

Mark: Now you guys ... you're eighty-four, right?

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: And Tom's eighty-seven. How do you guys ... I'm curious, because I'm sixty-six. I'm hoping I'll be where you're gonna be ... where you are right now, in twenty years. What do you think about the future?

Isabel: Uh ... I feel for my grandkids. I worry about 'em. I don't know. The way things are going I worry about 'em a lot.

Mark: Personally? Or you mean, society?

Isabel: Society. No, not personally, just what's gonna happen.

Mark: What are you worried about?

Isabel: Well, I don't know. [laughs] I just don't think things are that great anymore. The world is in turmoil, and ... lot of things for them to worry about to face.

Mark: Um-hmm. Well, you grew up in a totally different time.

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: I mean, you ...

Isabel: A good time. Like I say, I'm glad we grew up when we did. I think it was the best time.

Mark: Before the world changed.

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: When World War I happened the world ...

Isabel: Things start changing.

Mark: Things started changing. And then the Depression and then World War II. But you know what? You guys lived through it.

Isabel: Yeah. But things are so much more difficult now, with the atomic bomb and that, it's a lot more to worry about.

Mark: Right. Right. But don't you think as people get older -- I know I'm this way -- you worry more, anyway?

Isabel: Yeah, I guess so. 'Cause you see what you've been through and you wonder if, what they're gonna have to go through.

Mark: Yeah, my dad didn't want me to make mistakes, and so he tried to keep me from doin' things. But I think kids have to make their own mistakes.

Isabel: I guess so. They have to learn the hard way. They're too spoiled now, though. That's what worries me. They don't ... I don't think they'd know how to manage if things got really bad for 'em. That's what worries me. They don't know how to cut corners or what to do without. They think you have to have everything and you don't.

Mark: Well, you guys ... you guys lived through the Depression. You lived through the war. You knew what scarcity was all about. I would have a tendency to agree with you. They don't have those experiences.

Isabel: No.

Mark: Through no fault of their own.

Isabel: No, that's true. That's true.

Mark: Do you guys have any fond ambitions yet? I mean, do you want be married 75 years like Cliff and Martha Hansen?

Isabel: Just ... our ambitions are to not forget our pills each day. [laughs]

Mark: [laughs] That's funny. Wait a minute. You look beyond tomorrow morning. I know you do.

Isabel: We time the day during "You take your pills this morning? Did you take your pills this afternoon?"

Mark: Oh, I've gotta ask you this, I gotta ask you this: Ardath and I have been married for forty -- what is it now? -- goin' on 44 years. You've been married for 64. Do you know what Tom's thinking?

Isabel: We practically say the same thing, one after the other anymore. Don't we?

Thomas: Yeah, I guess so.

Mark: You can almost finish the sentence ...

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: ...for that person?

Isabel: That's right.

Mark: But you ... is he a person of regular habits?

Isabel: Pretty much, yes. I think so.

Mark: And are you?

Isabel: I am, too.

Mark: You are, too? So you can pretty well predict what he's gonna do at certain times of the day.

Isabel: Well, the mornings when he's eatin' breakfast and that and yeah, we eat ... yeah, probably.

Mark: Yeah. Are you guys all done traveling?

Isabel: I'm not too enthusiastic about traveling. He'd like to still go, but

Mark: After all those years you still want to travel [perhaps addressing Thomas]

Isabel: A few places. I don't ... you [don't] want to travel too much, do ya?

Thomas: Well, I'd like to do a little bit more than we do but, uh, things have changed a lot since she's lost her eyesight.

Mark: Oh, I didn't know that.

Isabel: Oh, yeah.

Mark: You have lost your eyesight?

Isabel: Not all of it. I have ...

Thomas: She's got macular degeneration and something ... well, she's legally blind right now.

Mark: You can't drive?

Isabel: No.

Thomas: No.

Mark: Can you see me?

Isabel: I can see you but not your face unless I look ... side.

Mark: Well, am I handsome?

Isabel: Yes. [Mark and Isabel laugh] Do you want me to tell you no?

Mark: [both laugh again]. Well, I'm thinking, you know, you guys ... this is my opinion. I think you should travel. You and your husband are in great shape, physically, it looks to me like.

Isabel: Well, I don't like to see him drivin' on the highway.

Thomas: She don't think that I can do it anymore. [Isabel laughs] Well, she used to be a big help to me when I was drivin', you know?

Isabel: Yeah.

Thomas: I go to Denver or someplace and she could watch the street signs and everything but that's all in the past now. I gotta do it all on my own.

Mark: Is that scary a little bit?

Isabel: And it isn't ...

Thomas: But I still think I can drive.

Isabel: He can drive. The thing that worries me, if somethin' happens to him I can't even phone anybody ... you know.

Thomas: Well, that's a big change in my driving because she was a great help.

Isabel: I can't drive anymore. If somethin' happened to him we're stuck.

Mark: You were his navigator?

Isabel: Sort of, yeah.

Isabel: Yeah. In the cities and that when he was ...

Thomas: [undecipherable "... missin' the spot ..."]

Isabel: Yeah.

Thomas: ... street signs and stuff.

Isabel: Yeah.

Thomas: But I'm tryin' to drive and watch street signs and that's, uh, it's pretty rough. She used to be a big help tellin' me, "This is the next street comin' up" and now she can't do that anymore. Things have changed a lot since she's lost her eyesight.

Mark: Can they do anything for you?

Isabel: No. Just keep it from getting' worse, as fast as it ...I take shots in this eye to stop the bleeding, and it slows it down. But I'll lost my sight here, too.

Mark: Can you read?

Isabel: No.

Mark: Well, then, what ...

Thomas: She can't read or write.

Isabel: Can't read or write.

Thomas: It's all my job now.

Mark: So what about watching TV?

Isabel: I have to be right next to it.

Mark: Hmm. Hmm. Well, sooner or later they're gonna have that problem solved.

Isabel: Yeah. Not for me but I hope for the younger ones.

Mark: You think?

Thomas: It's not gonna happen while she's around ...

Isabel: No.

Thomas: ... I don't think, anyway.

Mark: Well, you got your kids, your grandkids and your great-grandkids. And that's a great thing.

Isabel: Yes.

Mark: Well, listen, I wanta thank you, Isabel.

Isabel: OK.

Mark: I wanta thank you for your time And, Tom, for yours, too. And this has been ... this has been a joy for me and educational, to say the least. And I think that your kids, and your grandkids and your great-grandkids and their kids are all gonna listen to this someday and they're gonna say "Wow."

Isabel: Yeah, they're all important to us, that's for sure. All of 'em. That's all we have, really..

Mark: Well, isn't that the most important thing?

Isabel: Yes, that's right.

Mark: If somebody were to ask me, "What's the most important thing you ever did in your life?" I guess I would say, "Getting married and having our two kids." 'Cause all those personal things they just sort of slip ...

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: They just slide by.

Thomas: There's a coupla things I dug out to show you that you've ...

Mark: Oh, OK. Well, we might as well just wait. He's gonna dig out a couple things.

Isabel: I have a couple things on the table there.

Mark: Do you wanta disconnect yourself temporarily here? Just squeeze those two little ... here, let me do it for ya. [Mark reaches over and disconnect the microphone from Isabel] I got it. OK, you're disconnected.

Thomas: You asked me ... I might have some awards or ...

Mark: Yes.

Thomas: I dug these out.

Mark: Oh, OK.

Thomas: These are letters of commendation and ...

Mark: I've seen this one.

Thomas: Maybe ... maybe she included that one ... with all the rest of the stuff.

Mark: Oh, no, I didn't see this one. I think I saw this one here. These are letters of commenda ... my Gosh, look at all these.

Thomas: Yeah.

Mark: I could read these but I don't think I will. But won't read 'em out loud. [pause break] Here's a gift certificate for fifteen bucks. Did you know you had that?

Thomas: Oh, yeah, I remember the one, the longest drive, that's for sure.

Mark: Oh, is that right?

Thomas: Yeah, one of those is for the longest drive in a tournament.

Mark: On number thirt...

Thomas: I was pretty proud of that.

Mark: OK. Um, "Mister" ... OK, here's a framed one: "Mr. Thomas Fabian ..."

Thomas: Yeah, this was made by a secretary that was workin' for me in Bridger ... Bridger Power Plant.

Mark: What's "I and "S" "E". Idaho?

Thomas: No. [laughs] "Installation and Service Engineer" or whatever it is.

Mark: OK. "Field Supervisor Extraordinaire" I think they misspelled "Extraordinaire". Uh, "For work ac ..." and then there's a star below that, and below the star it says, "For work accomplished above and beyond the call of duty you are hereby awarded the gold star, first class". Wow.

Thomas: [laughs] That was Betty Leninger made that out. She was ... she was a good secretary but she was a screwball.

Mark: [laughs] And then this one...

Thomas: That's the one I got, that's when I retired. It's the plaque up there.

Mark: Oh, this is a plaque. This is beautiful. It says, "To honor your dedication the General Electric Company takes pride in recognizing the loyal service of Thomas R. Fabian -- Thomas Ray Fabian-- August, 1984 with special appreciation for your many contributions during a distinguished career." That's gorgeous.

Thomas: Yeah.

Mark: And then this one ...

Thomas: This is the one that I was more proud of any, right there.

Mark: What is this?

Thomas: It's just a managerial award for a job that I did down in Colorado.

Mark: "Thomas ..."

Thomas: They put a "S" in there instead of an "R" [laughs]

Mark: Yeah, I see that.

Thomas: ... screwed up a little bit.

Mark: "For unusual accomplishments far beyond the normal expectations of his regular assignment." And the general manager signed it, and the regional manager, for G.E. Yeah. Did you ever meet any of the bigwigs for either Westinghouse or G.E.?

Thomas: No, just regional managers.

Isabel: Oh, he went back and gave the class once. In Buffalo ... where was it? New York?

Thomas: No, down in Greensboro ... Greenville ... Greenville, South Carolina.

Isabel: Greensburg ... South Carolina, yes.

Thomas: That was for the gas turbines I installed down in ...

Isabel: Fort Lupton?

Thomas: Fort Lupton, Colorado, yeah.

Mark: That shows that you were a hard worker.

Thomas: I think I was a good worker.

Isabel: He got the job done.

Thomas: I worked hard.

Isabel: Oh, I was gonna show ya. I think this is my dad's natur ... uh, citizenship or something.

Mark: Yeah, This is the United States. It's printed almost on the same paper that money is made out of. It says, "The United States of America Certificate of Naturalization..." Uh, let's see, here, the holder of this is 33 years old, five foot-six, white complexion, dark eyes, blue ... wait a minute: dark complexion. Color of eyes, blue. Color of hair, brown.

Isabel: No, he was light.

Mark: Yeah, well, let's see ...um. Where's the name on it? It's got your kids, Viola age twelve years, Valentino, age nine years, Maria age four years, and Isabel age two years ... all residents of Superior, Wyoming. And then it's signed ... oh, it's Giuseppe.

Isabel: yeah.

Mark: Giuseppe Rizzi.

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: And you pronounce that "Rizzi", right?

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: I got that right?

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: And he's got his named signed here and then, uh, he was a subject of Victor Emmanuel the Third, King of Italy.

Isabel: Oh.

Thomas: [laughs]

Isabel: I didn't know that.

Mark: I'll be darned. And this was signed on fifteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and forty-nine. Wow. OK. And what's that other thing you have there, Isabel?

Isabel: This is ... I think this is my mother and dad's marriage certificate I sent for once. In ...

Mark: Weston County. Between Joe Rizzi and Mrs. Nellie ...

Thomas: [undecipherable]

Mark: Huh?

Isabel: Was it Guis? [she pronounces it "Gice"]

Mark: Yeah.

Isabel: G-U-I-S. That was her first marriage.

Mark: G-U-I-S

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: Guis [he pronounces it] And then the second marriage was to him.

Isabel: Yeah.

Mark: OK, gotcha. Certificate of marriage. I'm tryin' to figure out the day here. Uh, Weston County. They were 26. Or, at least, your mother was 26.

Isabel: Yeah, he was 27, I think.

Mark: And they got married in 1919.

Isabel: 1919..

Mark: The fourth day of January.

Isabel: Oh.

Mark: Yeah. Well, no, no on the 24th day of January. Oh, it was recorded on the 24th day of January but it says, uh, they got married on the fourth. OK. ... "Nell K. Russell, County Clerk." Do you keep a lotta old family records?

Isabel: Ju .. what I can, what I have. I didn't get a lot of thing. My sisters and ... probably have some. I sent for this myself. And then I don't know how I got this.

Mark: Did ... do you have pictures? Old pictures?

Isabel: I've got pictures. I've got one of my mother when she was sixteen years old.

Mark: Do you look like her?

Isabel: Yes, I did.

Thomas: [chuckles]

Mark: You know what? I think I better shut this off because our ... we're gonna be goin' on tape on this and I think we've got her disconnected. So I'll stop this. [end of recording]